A SPECIAL BOXING DAY ISSUE

Comment pg 6

Harper machine rolls ever on

The world's largest global newspaper

metro®

CALGARY • SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2009 metronews.ca

Shopping pg10

Get geeked with Boxing Day toys

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode to get updated Local news on your smartphone during the holidays.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Local pg 3

Ring roads and flu: A year in Calgary

Canada/World pg 4

The top news stories of 2009

Music pg 11

Moments to never forget

Celebrity Buzz pg 14

Famous friends we lost in 2009

Metro will not be publishing over the holidays. The next edition will appear Jan. 4, 2010.

PHOTOS BY THE CANADIAN PRESS

Images of the decade: Michael Jackson (clockwise from top left), Canadian troops in Afghanistan, the global economic collapse and the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Defining a difficult decade

Was it the decade when bankers' greed caused a worldwide financial meltdown, or will it be terrorism or technology that people associate with the first 10 years of the 21st century?

Opinions vary, with authors, journalists, comedians and futurists zeroing in on different facets of this decade. But most agree the era is more likely to be remembered as a toxic time than a golden age.

"I will remember it as a frightening decade," said Linden MacIntyre, longtime CBC journalist and 2009 winner of the Giller Prize, the country's top literary award.

The United States set the pessimistic tone early on and led the way on most of the issues that shaped the period, MacIntyre said.

The outcome of the 2000 election was controversial — George W. Bush won, but acrimony lingered — and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the U.S. proved to be a turning point. MacIntyre said 9-11 and the international reaction sparked a climate of fear that would persist for years to come.

It's a view shared by comedian Rick Mercer, who strove to give Canadians a break from the unrelenting negativity through his blistering political and social satire.

Calling the decade a time that people would "rather forget," Mercer said the paranoia that followed 9-11 was eventually succeeded by anxiety over the foundering global economy.

In Canada, the emergence of a strengthened Conservative party, coupled with the Liberals' waning fortunes, led to three successive minority governments that highlighted national tensions.

"Elections every year and a half, that's great for my business," said Mercer. "If you view politics as people view sports, elections are like the Super Bowl, and I want one every year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boxing Week Special

Join Now!

NO MONEY DOWN! NO ENROLMENT!

on a 2 year membership!*

*Based on the purchase of a 2 year PAP membership during your first club visit. Regular membership fee varies based on club and membership option chosen. No additional fees are required above the regular membership fee. Payments will commence based on your start date. One club price only. Offer valid at participating clubs. Limited time only. Other conditions apply, see club for details.

LIMITED TIME ONLY

Opportunity for a fresh start in 2010

1-800-597-1FIT

goodlifefitness.com

GoodLife FITNESS

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

MORE GO. LESS DOUGH.

2009 PONTIAC G5 SE

Coupe or Sedan

INCLUDES • **155 HP 2.2L ECOTEC® VVT Engine • Air Conditioning • Power Windows, Door Locks and Mirrors** • 60/40 Split-Folding Rear Seatbacks • Driver and Front-passenger Frontal Air Bags • Head Curtain Side-impact Air Bags • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack • Remote Keyless Entry System • 16-in. Wheels • 4-wheel ABS

0%† FOR 72 MONTHS†
FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

E/F HWY: 5.8L/100 km (49 mpg)
CITY: 8.4L/100 km (34 mpg)▼

2009 PONTIAC G3 WAVE SE

INCLUDES • **106 HP 1.6L 4-cyl. DOHC Engine • Air Conditioning • Power Windows and Door Locks** • Power Sunroof • Remote Keyless Entry System • Cruise Control • OnStar® with 1-year of the Safe & Sound Plan‡‡ • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack

0%† FOR 60 MONTHS†
FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

E/F HWY: 5.7L/100 km (50 mpg)
CITY: 7.9L/100 km (36 mpg)▼

★★★★★
FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING

2009 PONTIAC VIBE

INCLUDES • **132 HP 1.8L 4-cyl. VVTi Engine • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack • Standard CD player with AM/FM, Clock and Equalizer** • 60/40 Split-Folding Rear Seatbacks • Driver and Front-passenger Frontal Air Bags • Head Curtain Side-impact Air Bags • 4-wheel Disc Brakes with ABS and Brake Assist • OnStar® with 1-year of the Safe & Sound Plan¥

0%† FOR 36 MONTHS†
FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

E/F HWY: 6.2L/100 km (46 mpg)
CITY: 7.8L/100 km (36 mpg)▼

HOLIDAY GIFT

ALBERTAPONTIAC.COM

PONTIAC
BUICK
GMC

GM

GM Canada
THE BEST COVERAGE IN CANADA
5 YEARS 160,000 KM
· POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY
· ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
· COURTESY TRANSPORTATION
WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. EXCLUDES MEDIUM-DUTY TRUCK. SEE DEALER FOR LIMITED WARRANTY DETAILS.▲

STUDENT BONUS.ca GM pays the first 2 monthly payments¥

OnStar®‡‡

For the latest information, visit us at gm.ca, drop by your local Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ‡ $1,000 holiday bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) available on all 2009/2010 Pontiac Buick GMC models excluding Savana and Medium Duty Trucks. † Financing available on approved GMAC credit only. 0% purchase financing available for 72/60/36 months on 2009 Pontiac G5 (1SM/G3 (1SM)/Vibe (1SD). Down payment and / or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment / trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 72/60/36 months, the monthly payment is $139.89/$166.67/$277.78. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. ‡/† Offers apply as indicated to new or demonstrator models. Dealer trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited offers subject to change without notice. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in Alberta Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only. See your GM dealer for details. ▼Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide Ratings. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ◊ U.S. Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ‡‡ OnStar services require vehicle electrical system (including battery), wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-4ONSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Policy and details and system limitations. Additional information can be found in the OnStar Owner's Guide. ¥ GMCL will pay the first two months' GMAC finance payments for finance terms up to 60 months only, paid up to a maximum monthly finance payment of $400 (tax included). Offer applicable to equal monthly payment finance agreements with GMAC and subject to GMAC credit approval. License, insurance, registration and administration fees not included and may be payable upon signing. Program not available to recipients of any previous GM student/graduate offer. Visit gmstudentbonus.ca for more details.

News on the Move IN THREE EASY STEPS

1 DOWNLOAD THE **FREE** SCANLIFE APPLICATION WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE AT 2DSCAN.COM

2 USE THE SCANLIFE APPLICATION ON YOUR SMARTPHONE TO SCAN 2D BARCODES IN METRO

3 THE CODES WILL DIRECT YOUR MOBILE BROWSER TO RELEVANT CONTENT AT M.METRONEWS.CA

SCANLIFE

Calgarians survive another crazy year

Whether it was Plan-It Calgary, the ring road, a visit from his Holiness or H1N1 — Calgary had no shortage of attention-grabbing headlines in 2009.

Unfortunately, tragedy produced the year's first major headlines, with the New Year's Day triple murder involving alleged gang members, and one innocent bystander, Kenny Su'a. By June, the Calgary police had nabbed three suspects in the crime.

The Brier swept into town, with provincial curling heavyweight and yet-to-be-crowned Canadian Olympic skip, Kevin Martin and his rink taking the crown.

Dubya and Condi come to the city — one in March and one in May, respectively — bringing a throng of protests to the city for each visit.

ROBIN KUNSKI / FOR METRO CALGARY

Protesters gathered on the corner of Stephen Avenue and Centre Street on May 14 to protest former U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, who spoke at the event launching the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy.

March, however, started a storyline with which Calgarians would become more familiar. The ring road. The northern portion, stretching from deep northwest Calgary across the city's north boundary to the east, gave Calgarians a glimpse of what could be, while an ever-lengthening negotiation on the southwest portion began to boil over with Calgarians.

At the end of June, the Tsuu T'ina nation voted against a ring road proposal — signaling the start of a new direction by the city. Approval of an interchange at 37 St and Glenmore Trail set in motion a different agenda to get commuters moving in the city's southwest.

Swine flu, or H1N1, made its first appearance in Alberta in April — and evolved into what some may argue as the biggest of Alberta Health Services' 2009 debacles (and let's face it, there were a few). Encouraging everyone to get out for the vaccination later in the year and having a deluge of Calgarians standing for hours in line eventually gave way to a graduated and pragmatic approach. Panic aside, thousands of headlines were made from swine-flu related stories.

The Calgary Flames are bounced from April play yet again and the city faces $184 million in cuts in early May.

With cuts on the table, the city is faced with no shortage of decisions — and Calgarians have no shortage of opinions. Pedestrian bridges at $25 million in July continue to be scorned in December, and the implementation of fees for parking in city transit lots is a sure way to cause calamity at the water cooler.

And after the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth once again brought hundreds of thousands to Calgary in July, WorldSkills 2009 celebrated talented tradespeople from around the globe.

A minor political surprise began what some predict as the largest shift in Alberta's provincial political history, as Wildrose Alliance Party candidate and interim leader, Paul Hinman, handily beat out the PC and Liberal candidates to snag a seat previously held for nearly 50 years by the Conservatives.

It seemed to pile up provincially from there: Bills 44 and 50 became magnets for opposition; Alberta Health Services goes from one controversy to the next; Premier Stelmach's popularity appears to plummet and he fends off calls for his resignation by garnering 70-plus per cent support from party faithful

Plan-It Calgary passes in September with aldermen heralding their vision of Calgary's future, while others feel it sold out — not dealing with the proposed increased density and the challenge of urban sprawl.

The arrival of His Holiness the Dalai Lama provided a moment for pause and reflection for thousands of Calgarians.

The Olympic torch is lit, and the world prepares for the Winter Olympics in Vancouver — with the last winter games in Canada held right here in Calgary 22 years earlier — can you feel it?

As the year draws to a close, aldermen pat themselves on the back for holding the projected tax hike to a "measly" 4.79 per cent, but set the stage for an interesting 2010. That's right — it's a civic election year.

The Grey Cup once again showcases the city's success as we play host to an Alouettes win — but an ongoing storyline at the Calgary Zoo — animal deaths and the trespassing and mauling of one man by a tiger — showed there is still more work to do.

Of course, every year is filled with honourable headline mentions and this year was no different.

Snow removal drew the ire of Calgarians (as it seems to annually).

Flames legend Theo Fleury announces his intentions to try out for the big club; stirs a frenzy of fan excitement, doesn't make the team, announces retirement as a Flame … and then comes out with a book on his troubled past.

How could one forget the tabloid-style coverage of former Calgarian Ryan Jenkins and a gruesome murder and later suicide? The media loves a trashy tale — for better or worse.

The year 2010 will bring no shortage of successes and shortcomings in this great city — and while it's impossible to tell what lies ahead, there is one certainty: Metro Calgary will remain committed to delivering the headlines that matter in your daily lives.

METRO CALGARY

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Dalai Lama received an honourary degree from the University of Calgary and spoke to an audience of over 15,000 on Oct. 31.

Ten of the best attractions in town

Calgary has lots to offer not that far from your own doorstep. Here are Metro's "Best Places To … over the Holidays."

1 To skate for free outdoors: Olympic Plaza. Bring the skates and the kids for some outdoor fun under the lights and night sky — for free.

2 Snowboard or ski within the city limits: Canada Olympic Park. Snowboard or ski and enjoy some family time. Hills for different levels.

3 View a Christmas light display: Calgary Zoolights. The zoo transcends the night into a light display amongst the sleeping animals.

4 Get away for a day trip: Banff. It has everything you can ask for in a day trip; hot springs, shopping, sightseeing wildlife and more.

5 Get a piece of history: Heritage Park. Learn about the history of the city and province with special Christmas events.

6 Skate indoors with the family: Olympic Oval. Want a reprieve from the cold? Enjoy the oval track with the kids while listening to holiday music.

7 Bring the family tobogganing: Neighborhood hills around the city. Dress warm and have hot chocolate ready for afterwards and enjoy the snowy fun.

8 Catch some hockey: Saddledome — Flames or Hitmen. Whether it's NHL or WHL, the Saddledome has lots of exciting hockey for everyone.

9 Christmas shop: Balzac Mall. It has various feature shops and things to do just outside the city and lots of parking.

10 Catch a holiday production: Theatre Calgary – A Christmas Carol. Everybody's favourite holiday Scrooge is playing until Dec. 27.

METRO CALGARY

Holiday activities

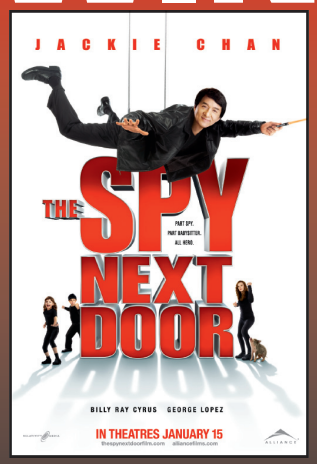
Ways to keep busy over the Christmas break and ideas on how to ring in the new year.

- **Airdrie Festival of Lights.** It runs between 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. nightly until Dec. 31. Well worth the drive and fun for the whole family!
- **Tiny Tim's Christmas.** Another holiday classic, runs until Dec. 30, storybooktheatre.org.
- **Mascherari 2010 New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball.** Enter a spellbinding and colorful world beyond the realm of your imagination. mascherari.com.
- **New Year's Eve Black & White Charity Ball.** The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and Alberta Children's Hospital Dinner, with a comedian and a DJ for entertainment Dec. 31. at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel.
- **The Glitter Ball 2010.** Lewis Dene, Lazy Rich & Scott James party at Canada Olympic Park on Dec. 31 coreenterttainment.ca.
- **Beat Matrix New Year's Eve Gala.** The festivities begin at 8 p.m. at the Metropolitan Conference Centre and semi-formal attire is a must.
- **Masquerade New Year's Eve 2010.** Ring in the new year at the Carriage House Inn with five different rooms and a sophisticated and intimate atmosphere.
- **City of Calgary Christmas tree recycling program.** From Jan. 9 to 11, and Jan. 16 to 18 — put your Christmas tree outside and the city will pick it up — for more information visit calgary.ca/recycling or call 3-1-1.

METRO CALGARY

YOU COULD WIN

A PAIR OF ADVANCE SCREENING PASSES TO SEE THE SPY NEXT DOOR



IN THEATRES JANUARY 15

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN! metronews.ca

No purchase necessary. Enter daily for more chances to win. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes January 3, 2010 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.

metro

During the holidays
For more news from Canada and around the world during the holidays, visit metronews.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada/World

The stories that shaped 2009

Year in Review

A look back at the top national and international news events of 2009:

JANUARY

15 — US Airways jet crash lands in Hudson River in New York City; all 155 on board survive and pilot Chesley Sullenberger is hailed as hero.

20 — Barack Obama is sworn in as U.S. president.

27 — Minority Conservative government delivers budget promising $40 billion in economic stimulus over two years.

FEBRUARY

9 — Syncrude Canada is charged with breaking environmental laws in the deaths of hundreds of waterfowl at tailing pond near Fort McMurray, Alta.

17 — Obama signs into law $787-billion US stimulus package.

MARCH

5 — Vincent Li is found not criminally responsible for beheading passenger on Greyhound bus in August 2008.

19 — Josef Fritzl of Austria, who locked his daughter in a dungeon for 24 years and fathered her seven children, is sentenced to life in a psychiatric ward.

APRIL

6 — Earthquake devastates Abruzzo region of central Italy, killing nearly 300 people.

20 — Tens of thousands of civilians flee Sri Lanka's northern war zone ahead of the government's deadline for Tamil militants to surrender.

30 — About 1,200 Halifax-area residents evacuated by brush fire.

MAY

2 — Michael Ignatieff formally claims the Liberal leadership.

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

April 29 — A girl is seen outside Mexico's National Institute of Respiratory Diseases after being checked for H1N1. Canada reported its first confirmed cases three days earlier.

Oct. 15 — Authorities chase balloon for 80 kilometres after parents of six-year-old boy said he was inside; the drama turned out to be a hoax.

8 — Health authorities confirm Canada's first H1N1 death, a woman in northern Alberta.

20 — Two Woodstock, Ont., residents are charged in the death of Tori Stafford, 8; her body was found on July 19.

25 — Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean eats a piece of raw seal heart in Arctic. North Korea reports it successfully conducted an underground nuclear test.

JUNE

1 — General Motors files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in U.S.

11 — WHO declares H1N1 flu outbreak a pandemic.

12 — Iranians vote in presidential election that sparks massive protests.

22 — About 24,000 municipal workers in Toronto go on strike.

29 — Bernard Madoff is sentenced to 150 years behind bars for defrauding investors.

JULY

3 — Former Republican U.S. vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin quits as Alaska's governor.

8 — Chinese troops swarm the capital of western Xinjiang after ethnic riots leave at least 156 dead.

14 — Canada slaps visa requirements on citizens of Mexico and Czech Republic, citing surge in refugee claims.

30 — Cpl. Matthew Wilcox found guilty in the shooting of a fellow soldier.

AUGUST

2 — About 2,300 people are ordered out of their homes as wildfire threatens Lillooet, B.C.

5 — Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien is found not guilty of influence peddling.

7 — Settlement announced in class-action lawsuit filed over abuse by priests in Nova Scotia since 1950.

20 — Millions vote in Afghanistan's first democratic presidential election run by Afghans in decades.

SEPTEMBER

7 — Three British Muslim extremists are convicted of 2006 conspiracy to blow up airliners bound for U.S. and Canada using liquid explosives.

26 — Director Roman Polanski is arrested in Switzerland on a 1978 warrant for having sex with a 13-year-old girl.

OCTOBER

9 — President Obama is awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

22 — Quebec government announces police investigation into allegations of corruption in province's construction industry.

26 — Most provinces and territories begin offering H1N1 flu shots.

29 — Quebec and New Brunswick reach deal for Hydro-Quebec to buy majority of N.B. Power's assets for $4.8 billion.

NOVEMBER

2 — Afghan President Hamid Karzai is declared the victor of country's disputed election.

5 — Thirteen people are killed in shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, military base.

7 — U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passes landmark health-care bill.

18 — Former Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin tells Commons committee that prisoners were likely tortured after being handed by Canada to Afghan authorities in 2006-07.

25 — Canadian journalist Amanda Lindhout and an Australian colleague are freed 15 months after they were abducted in Somalia.

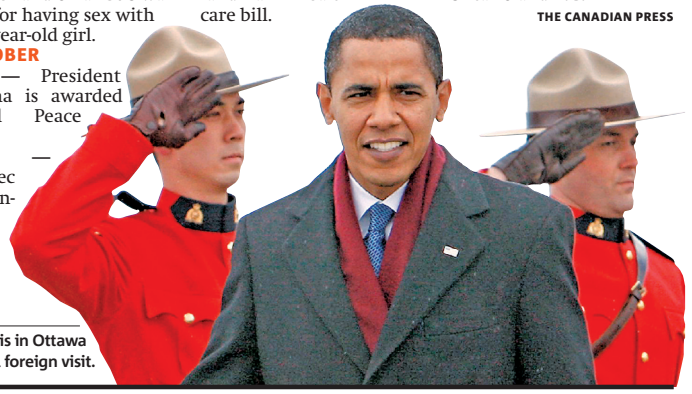
DECEMBER

1 — President Obama orders 30,000 more U.S. troops to be deployed in Afghanistan.

7 — UN conference on climate change gets underway in Copenhagen.

9 — MPs vote in favour of harmonized sales tax for Ontario and B.C.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Feb. 19 — U.S. President Barack Obama is in Ottawa on his first official foreign visit.

Remembering the fallen

Canadian soldiers who gave their lives in Afghanistan this year

- Trooper Brian Good
- Sapper Sean Greenfield
- Warrant Officer Dennis Raymond Brown
- Cpl. Dany Olivier Fortin
- Cpl. Kenneth Chad O'Quinn
- Trooper Marc Diab
- Master-Cpl. Scott Vernelli
- Cpl. Tyler Crooks
- Trooper Jack Bouthillier
- Trooper Corey Joseph Hayes
- Trooper Karine Blais
- Private Alexandre Peloquin
- Cpl. Nicholas Bulger
- Master Cpl. Charles-Philippe Michaud
- Master Cpl. Patrice Audet
- Cpl. Martin Joannette
- Pte. Sebastien Courcy
- Sapper Matthieu Allard
- Cpl. Christian Bobbitt
- Cpl. Darby Morin
- Major Yannick Pepin
- Cpl. Jean-Francois Drouin
- Pte. Patrick Lormand
- Pte. Jonathan Couturier
- Lt. Justin Boyes
- Sapper Steven Marshall

Boxing Week

SAVE DOUBLE THE GST*

STOREWIDE!

HURRY! WHEN THEY'RE GONE, THEY'RE GONE!

QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED! WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

LAZBOY FURNITURE GALLERIES®

Comfort. It's what we do.℠

CELEBRATING 84 YEARS of comfort

MON - FRI 10-9
SATURDAY 10-6
SUNDAY 11-5

7300 - 11 Street S.E.
403-259-1000
(1 Block North of Heritage Drive)

www.lazboy.com/calgary
*Does Not Apply to Advertised or Red Hot Buy Items
**See store for details.

5111 Northland Dr. N.W.
403-240-1000
(Northland Village)

IN-HOUSE DESIGN ASSISTANCE

CALGARY
Publisher, Steve Shrout
Managing Editor, Darren Krause
Distribution Manager, Dave Mak

METRO CANADA
Group Publisher, Bill McDonald
Assoc Managing Editor, Tarin Elbert
Enter/Lifestyle Editor, Dean Lisk
Asst Managing Editor, Amber Shortt
Art Director, Laila Hakim
National Sales Director, Peter Bartrem
Interactive/Mrktng Director, Jodi Brown

Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Comment

Harper machine remains well-oiled

NationalReport
Lawrence Martin

metronews.ca/nationalreport

The recession never became a depression. We didn't have an election. Another Liberal leader was eaten alive. The Harper machine solidified its grip. The hope of never again going into deficit died a mighty death.

But the year couldn't compare to the hurly-burly of 2008, which featured the re-election of the Conservatives and their subsequent brush with death when a coalition almost ousted them. In 2009, we had lots of noise, lots of election threats, but no big change in the political standings.

There was some expectation that the ideological transition in the United States would trigger a liberal trend north of the border, but the Obama effect never came to pass. The young in this country stayed turned off and tuned out of politics, which depressingly has become a game for only the middle-aged and old folk.

The year began auspiciously for Michael Ignatieff, who replaced the wobbly Stéphane Dion. For the first half of 2009 he appeared capable of unseating Stephen Harper. But the tide began to turn against him when he put in a listless summer. He then made the disastrous mistake of trying to force an election without giving the voter any compelling reason, in terms of new policy initiatives, for doing so. His support level collapsed to levels Dion had not even reached.

Stephen Harper

The Conservatives, meanwhile, became heavy-spending Keynesians, combatting the recession with old-time liberal religion. Recessions usually give life to the political left, but the Greens were unable to increase their support while the NDP made few gains.

Harper maintained his image as a shrewd and crude political strategist, using every trick to smear his rivals and block them from legitimate avenues of inquiry. He then turned the tables on his image as a cold, calculating leader by taking to the stage to perform a piano-and-song rendition of a Beatles number. It was a media sensation.

By year's end problems were accumulating for the Conservatives. Their inaction on global warming was denounced at home and abroad. The Afghanistan detainees affair saw them trying to fight off charges of a coverup. And having promised no deficits 13 months earlier, their books were now forecasting a whopping deficit of $60 billion.

Nevertheless, with the Opposition Liberals still appearing rather hapless, the Conservatives were well in command to begin their fifth year as a minority government. Minorities aren't supposed to last so long. Stephen Harper was defying the odds.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Views

Hot issues for the year that lies ahead

TheWestView
Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

It's that time of year again, when columnists are faced with two choices: Look back and pick the top stories or events that shaped the year just passed, or look ahead and predict what's coming down the pike.

The former is safer ground. That stuff actually happened. But it's more fun lurching into the future, and why worry? No one ever remembers if you're right or wrong.

So onward! Here are Sullivan's Fearless Predictions for 2010! Guaranteed to come true!

Or not.

• Canada will get off the snide and actually win a few Olympic gold medals on home turf in Vancouver. But not as many as we like. When the women's curling favourite is someone called Binyu Wang, it's clear the rest of the world is learning how to play in the snow, too.

• Tiger Woods will be a lonely guy in 2010. And worth half as much. He may be the athlete of the decade, but that doesn't cut any ice at home. He had it all, but wanted more. The upside? He will have more time for golf with the ex-wife and kids barricaded on an island in Sweden. So he'll be playing the field, and by that I mean other guys in plaid pants.

"Global Warning. Not a typo. The British Met office predicts 2010 will be the hottest year ever, hotter than 1998."

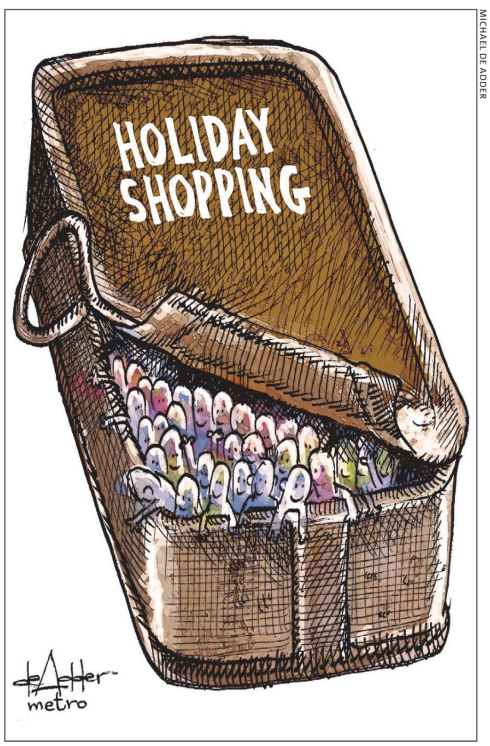
• Greed is not so good: The price of gold will go below $1,000 US an ounce. I love this quote from Warren Buffett, the second richest man in America: "Gold gets dug out of the ground in Africa, or someplace. Then we melt it down, dig another hole, bury it again and pay people to stand around guarding it. It has no utility. Anyone watching from Mars would be scratching their head."

• Stephen Harper will still be prime minister this time next year unless a miracle occurs and Michael Ignatieff gets his head out of his, um … book. But Harper should keep an eye on Jean Charest. As they say about New York, if you can make it in Quebec, you can make it anywhere.

• Global Warning. Not a typo. The British Met office predicts 2010 will be the hottest year ever, hotter than 1998. Glaciers will continue to melt. Oceans will continue to rise. Deniers will continue to deny. But you better hurry and book that Florida vacation — if this keeps up, 50 per cent of its beaches will be underwater.

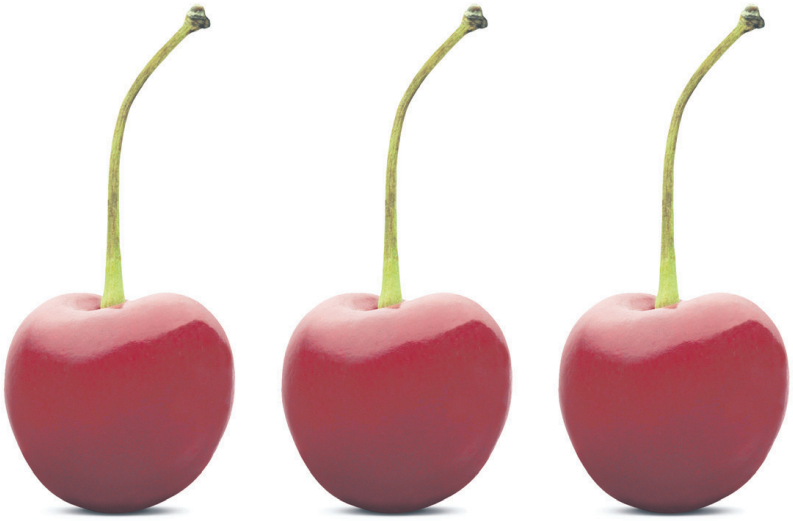
• We will not find other life in the universe in 2010. Wouldn't it be weird if we're the only ones? It would serve us right.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK
Visit metronews.ca to watch
metrotube of the day



Jackpot!

Switch to TELUS TV® and save.

Switching your TV to TELUS is easy, especially when you hear the price.

Sign up today and get:

- 1 month FREE
- Superb picture and sound quality
- Professional installation
- 24/7/365 technical support

Just **$9.95/mo*.**

for 6 months in a bundle, no contract required.

Switch today and save. Call 310-MYTV (6988).

TELUS

the future is friendly®

*Offer available until December 31, 2009, to residential clients in Calgary only who have not subscribed within the past 90 days to TELUS TV service. TELUS High Speed Internet or Home Phone service required. Offer includes the Essentials (84 pre-selected channels). Other channels and packages available for additional cost. Regular bundle rate of $23/month starts on month 7. TELUS reserves the right to change the channel lineup. Prices may vary without notice. © 2009 TELUS.

During the holidays
For more health and beauty news during the holidays, visit metronews.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Health & Beauty

Family dinner is done, time to look after yourself

Find all the beauty products you need to relax and unwind after the hectic holidays

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

So you asked for a professional flat iron and he got you... an iron. Well, fixing that gift-blunder yourself is what Boxing Day is for, especially when it comes to stocking up on beauty treats.

"We've noticed that men go straight for the electronics department, and while they're checking out big-screen TVs and Wii units, the women head for the beauty department," says Wayne Peterson, divisional vice president of cosmetics and fragrance for Sears Canada, about post-Dec. 25 shopping.

"Women have spent the holidays looking after everyone else; this is the time they needs to look after themselves."

Understandably, bath sets and spa collections in particular are big attractions. But it's not all about what didn't sell before the holidays — enticements include travel and trial-size sets from brands such as Shiseido, Estée Lauder and Clinique, brought in especially for the Boxing-Day shopping stretch into early January.

"Informally, we call this time for women 'All About Me,'" says Peterson. "Our sales advisors keep that in mind as they help customers find everything they need to pamper themselves."

Haircare and styling tools are also hot commodities, and should be even more so in Sears' new-concept beauty departments at Square One in Mississauga, Ont., and Maplevview Centre in Burlington, Ont.

In place of traditional beauty counters are spacious aisles and open shelving, as well as compact demo stations where customers can sit for a cosmetics application or learn how to augment hairstyles with Ken Paves Hairdo extensions.

According to Rhonda Sorenson, beauty boutique manager at The Ritz location of Shoppers Drug Mart in downtown Vancouver, fragrance, hair and bath-and-body products are a huge draw at drugstores on Dec. 26.

"Customers also come looking for anything Quo Holiday, and for the skincare and haircare value sets that come out just before the 25th," Sorensen says.

Just as in the department stores, watch for special sampler kits from Biotherm, Lise Watier and Elizabeth Arden, for instance, which are worth significantly more than the purchase price.

"Occasionally, prestige fragrance companies will offer limited-edition 30-mL bottle sizes for under $25," she adds.

But don't expect many festive gift sets to wait around until the big sales. "Makeup collections like the Lancôme Juicy Tubes Holiday Set of eight glosses — those go before Christmas," confirms Sorensen.

"But you might find other pre-holiday sets from then that are further discounted."

And if you're in a forgiving mood, you'll clean up on men's skincare starter kits, too.

FLIGHT CENTRE® Unbeatable

Sun Airfares

Puerto Vallarta from $198 + taxes & fees $269

Punta Cana	from $198 + taxes & fees $318
Ixtapa	from $200 + taxes & fees $273
Cancun	from $298 + taxes & fees $270
Varadero	from $395 + taxes & fees $211
Jamaica	from $397 + taxes & fees $273

Airfares

London	from $99 + taxes & fees $471
Las Vegas	from $158 + taxes & fees $108
Los Angeles	from $229 + taxes & fees $114
Hong Kong	from $649 + taxes & fees $191
Lima	from $780 + taxes & fees $215
Bangkok	from $849 + taxes & fees $295
Sydney	from $1279 + taxes & fees $365

Holiday Gift for You!

Earn up to $250** For every $500 you spend in the month of **December** with Flight Centre receive a $25 voucher towards a future booking up to a maximum of $250**.

Win your trip for FREE‡ When you purchase your travel in the month of **December** with Flight Centre, get an entry into a draw to win your trip for free‡.

Hawai'i Vacations

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights from $697 + taxes & fees $124
INCLUDES high speed internet access & free trolley service to Ala Moana Shopping Centre. ADD lei greeting & roundtrip transfers from $37.

Oahu & Maui Air + 7 Nights from $899 + taxes & fees $124
INCLUDES air to Honolulu, inter-island flight and return flight from Maui. ADD car rental in Hawai'i from $37 per day.

Vacations

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights from $229 + taxes & fees $108
UPGRADE to 4.5-star accom from $14 per night.

Disney's Paradise Pier Family Special Air + 5 Nights from $449◊ + taxes & fees $133
BONUS 5 nights for the price of 3. ADD 5-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket from $163 where adults pay child rates.

Phoenix Weekend Air + 3 Nights 5-Star from $479 + taxes & fees $118
INCLUDES accom at the Fairmont Scottsdale. ADD roundtrip transfers from $40.

Fernie 3 Nights + Car + Lift Passes from $569 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES 2-day lift pass.

New Orleans Mardi Gras Air + 4 Nights from $799 + taxes & fees $126
INCLUDES French Quarter accom to celebrate the final day of Mardi Gras.

Thailand Air + 7 Nights 4-Star from $1379 + taxes & fees $481
INCLUDES all air, daily breakfast, 3 nights in Bangkok and 4 nights in Phuket. ADD Elephant Trekking in Phuket from $59.

All-inclusive Vacations

Puerto Plata 7 Nights 4-Star from $598 + taxes & fees $318

Puerto Vallarta 7 Nights 4.5-Star	from $685 + taxes & fees $280
Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star	from $747 + taxes & fees $270
Manzanillo 7 Nights 4-Star	from $748 + taxes & fees $270
Mazatlan 7 Nights 5-Star	from $777 + taxes & fees $270
Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star	from $785 + taxes & fees $211
Punta Cana 7 Nights 4.5-Star	from $797 + taxes & fees $318
Los Cabos 7 Nights 5-Star	from $798 + taxes & fees $270
Costa Rica 7 Nights 4-Star	from $897 + taxes & fees $207

PERFECT HOLIDAY PROMISE† Enjoy your holiday or we'll give you $100 towards another one!

1 866 317 4223 | flightcentre.ca

*Conditions apply. Ex: Calgary. USA and international air only prices are per person for return travel unless otherwise stated. Domestic air only prices are per person for one-way travel unless otherwise stated. Package, cruise, tour, rail & hotel prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Prices are subject to availability at advertising deadline and are for select departure dates. Prices are accurate at time of publication, errors and omissions excepted, but are subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. ◊Family Special is based on 2 adults and 2 children (age 2-11) traveling together. **$25 vouchers can be combined together up to a maximum value of $250. Vouchers are valid on a cruise, tour or package booking. Cruise or tour must be minimum 7 days or longer. Package must include roundtrip airfare and minimum 3 nights accommodation. Vouchers are transferable. Vouchers cannot be redeemed for cash. Valid on new bookings only. Vouchers must be used by June 30th, 2010. Offer expires Dec 31, 2009. ‡No purchase necessary. Up to a maximum value of $3000. Valid on new bookings only. Bookings must be paid in full by December 31st, 2009. Contest ends December 31st, 2009. Must be age of majority to enter. Full contest rules available at www.flightcentre.ca/contest. † The Perfect Holiday Promise applies to bookings made at Flight Centre shops within Canada. A $100 voucher for future travel will be provided to customers who experience an unwanted deviation from their paid itinerary. For full details visit www.flightcentre.ca or speak to a Flight Centre consultant.*

LOW ON PRICE.
HIGH ON FEATURES.

BEST HIGHWAY FUEL EFFICIENCY
IN ITS CLASS (EXCLUDES HYBRIDS)♦

HWY: 5.4L/100KM – 52 MPG
CITY: 8.0L/100KM – 35 MPG▼

2009 CHEVROLET COBALT

0% FOR 72 MONTHS†

FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

INCLUDES • Ecotec 2.2L 4-Cylinder Engine • 5-Speed Manual Transmission • Standard CD with MP3 Playback and Audio Input Jack • 60/40 Split Folding Rear Seats

★★★★★
FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING◊

2009 CHEVROLET AVEO

0% FOR 60 MONTHS†

FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

HWY: 5.7L/100KM – 50 MPG
CITY: 7.9L/100KM – 36 MPG▼

INCLUDES • Ecotec 1.6L 4-Cylinder DOHC Engine • 5-Speed Manual Transmission • Standard CD with MP3 Playback and Audio Input Jack • 60/40 Split Folding Rear Seats

ALBERTACHEVROLET.COM

60 DAY SATISFACTION GUARANTEE**

NEW TOY NEW JOY EVENT

GM Canada
THE BEST COVERAGE IN CANADA
5 YEARS / 160,000 KM
· POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY
· ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
· COURTESY TRANSPORTATION
WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. EXCLUDES MEDIUM-DUTY TRUCKS. SEE DEALER FOR LIMITED WARRANTY DETAILS.▲

STUDENT BONUS‡‡ GM pays the first 2 monthly payments†

CHEVROLET

For the latest information, visit us at gm.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE: ‡ $1,000 holiday bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) available on all 2009/2010 Chevrolet models excluding Camaro, Express, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. † Financing available on approved GMAC credit only. 0% purchase financing available for 72/60 months on 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt (1SM)/Aveo (1SM). Down payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment / trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 72/60 months, the monthly payment is $138.89/$166.67. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. ‡/† Offers apply as indicated to new or demonstrator models. Dealer trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited offers subject to change without notice. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in Alberta Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only. See your GM dealer for details. ▼Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide Ratings. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ◊ U.S. Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ‡‡ OnStar services require vehicle electrical system (including battery), wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-40NSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Policy and details and system limitations. Additional information can be found in the OnStar Owner's Guide. ¥ GMCL will pay the first two months' GMAC finance payments for finance terms up to 60 months only, paid up to a maximum monthly finance payment of $400 (tax included). Offer applicable to equal monthly payment finance agreements with GMAC and subject to GMAC credit approval. License, insurance, registration and administration fees not included and may be payable upon signing. Program not available to recipients of any previous GM student/graduate offer. Visit gmstudentbonus.ca for more details. ** Return between 30-60 days with less than 4,000km. Program applies to 2009 and 2010 models only; excludes Demos, Fleet, Lease Vehicles and Medium Duty trucks. Maximum damage allowed of $200. Vehicle usage fee and other restrictions apply. Not available with some other offers. Customer must take retail delivery by 01/11/10. See dealer or gm.ca for additional details. ♦ Applies to 2009 Cobalt XFE (1AJ37/69). Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Energuide data and GM vehicle segmentation for the Compact Car - Regular segment.

Enable your conversations

Ultimate's Bluetooth-enabled FM transmitter lets you broadcast your telephone conversations and audio media through your vehicle's audio system using a built in FM transmitter. Available at Future Shop for $119.99. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Shopping

Shift your automobile gifts into high gear

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

CARS A car fanatic in your family? Or a gear-head yourself? Here are some great automotive accessory ideas to spend them on this Boxing Day:

Compustar 1-Way Remote Starter

A full-featured Remote Start system keeps your vehicle warm during the winter and provides convenience for you and your passengers. At Future Shop for $149.99.

Martini Racing Sweat Jacket

This Porsche Design men's jacket features deep side pockets and the iconic Porsche logo embroidered on the back. For $194 at your local Porsche dealer.

With the BMW Baby Racer II ($211.50) and the various accompanying street signs ($28.50), road safety lessons begin on Christmas Eve. From BMW.ca.

BMW Baby Racer II

Get geeked on tech toys

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Boxing Day is a great time to pick up those cool tidbits of gadget heaven that you already have in mind. Here are a few goodies to consider during the inevitable shopping rush:

UNDER $100:

Bodyguard Cinema iPhone Case - $34.99

The iPhone certainly isn't known for being one of the sturdiest contraptions, meaning some sort of protective case is necessary if you're at all clumsy. Belkin's Bodyguard Cinema takes away the need to find something to prop up your iPhone every time you want to sit back and enjoy a video because it has a kickstand built right into the body of the case.

Logitech Anywhere MX Mouse - $89.99

For the truly bohemian computer user, the Anywhere MX Mouse is a wireless, laser mouse that literally works anywhere, on any surface even including glass, that long-time nemesis of laser mice.

UNDER $200:

DJ Hero for Nintendo Wii - $129.99

DJ Hero is a ton of fun and really adds a fresh twist to the music-timing game genre by recreating the feel of being a real DJ in a way that doesn't feel egregiously out of whack with reality.

Gigabit Powerline HD adapter - $149 - $179

If you want to stream HD video from your computer the he Gigabit Powerline HD adapter wins big points for being extremely simple. The system uses two small adapters that plug directly into wall sockets with one connecting to your Internet router and the other into devices like computers, TVs and gaming consoles. The latest firmware updates, which strengthen the signal when broadcasting between rooms.

BIG TICKET BUY:

Sony Bravia VE5 Eco Series 40-inch LCD HDTV - $1,999.99

The Bravia line is a best-seller for Sony and for good reason — the TVs have bright, crisp colours and excellent picture quality.

ANNUAL
30% off
HARDCOVER
SALE*
Fiction, non-fiction, kids and more!

Plus up to 50% off
Select Books, Gifts and Calendars**

Chapters Indigo COLES

*Offer valid from December 26th, 2009 to January 3rd, 2010 on regular priced in-stock hardcovers, excluding mini-books and previously discounted and/or purchased books. Hardcover offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion (including everyday irewards discount) **Up to 50% off promotion is valid on select, in-stock merchandise. These offers are valid in stores for a limited time only, while quantities last. They can not be used to adjust amount paid on previous purchases. Prices and selection may vary between stores. Not valid online or on kiosk orders. We reserve the right to change or end these offers at any time without notice. Additional restrictions may apply. See store for details.

During the holidays
For more music and entertainment news during the holidays, visit metronews.ca/entertainment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Most unforgettable moments

From MJ's sudden death to Kanye's outburst, music went big in 2009

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

As yet another year draws to a close, it's time to reflect. What a phenomenally exciting 12 months we've had: an endless stream of musical highlights, surprises, letdowns and meltdowns. Sifting through enough juicy gossip to fill a novel, here are a few of music's more unforgettable moments in 2009.

Michael Jackson's death was one of the most surprising moments in the music world in 2009.

Highlights

Elton John and Billy Joel's first tour together in 15 years was as sweet as the piano greats' tunes of the past four decades. Fantastic, it was second only to a powerful live return from Irish rockers U2 on their 360 Degrees Tour. Massive and gripping, it re-established them on North American soil after their last stint, 1999's disappointing PopMart Tour.

On the borderline-comeback level, Beyoncé Knowles narrowly escaped losing her place as top female pop artist with the video for Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It).

The footage reinvigorated her career after latest studio album I Am...

Surprises

While it was a shock to see pop singer Lady Gaga appear out of nowhere to become one of the year's top-selling artists (like, multi-million status), two greater jaw-droppers indelibly altered the landscape of music this year.

A potential highlight, R&B sensation Whitney Houston finally got her act together after years of drug abuse and mistreatment by husband Bobby Brown. Hearing her incredibly bad full-length I Look To You and the effect such addictions on her live voice was a sad shocker.

Still, love him or hate him, nothing astonished more than hearing Michael Jackson, the self-proclaimed King Of Pop, was pronounced dead at the age of 50 in June. As expected, an onslaught of queries, accusations and disturbing merchandise—cologne made from his DNA—have followed.

Letdowns

Metal heads had hopes dashed as reports of a tour featuring the genre's biggest acts Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer and Anthrax were denied. Even more disturbing though, was this year's penchant for Auto-Tune, a studio device that corrects improper pitch for singers.

Meltdowns

Knowles was inadvertently part of 2009's most ridiculous meltdown thanks to hip hopper Kanye West.

He rudely interrupted teen idol Taylor Swift's acceptance speech for Best Female Video at the MTV Music Video Awards by grabbing the microphone to declare Beyoncé was unfairly beaten.

Lest we forget, rockers haven't been left out of the fray. Multi-million selling act Aerosmith were engaged with some rather public in-fighting, leaving singer Steven Tyler to officially announce his departure from the band on the eve of their 40th anniversary.

Here's hoping 2010 will offer up even greater highs, fewer lows and an endless stream of surprises.

Best Wishes

To the Calgary community for a safe and happy holiday season.

Our students continue to make us proud each and every day and we hope you will join us in celebrating their successes in 2010, our 125th Anniversary year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gordon Dirks	Wards 1 & 2
Lynn Ferguson	Wards 3 & 4
Pamela King	Wards 5 & 10
George Lane	Wards 6 & 7
Pat Cochrane	Wards 8 & 9
Karen Kryczka	Wards 11 & 13
Carol Bazinet	Wards 12 & 14

125 YEARS | Proud past. Bright future. Public education since 1885.
Calgary Board of Education

Educating Tomorrow's Citizens Today
www.cbe.ab.ca

$25 gets you $5!

yours to spend, yours to give.

With the purchase of a $25 abc Gift Card, there's a $5 bonus for you. Available now at all abc Country Restaurants.

Calgary: 403-720-6600
#658–11520 24th Street SE

BOOK YOUR PARTY NOW
PRIVATE ROOM AVAILABLE

During the holidays
For more movie and entertainment news during the holidays, visit metronews.ca/entertainment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Enjoy Boxing Day at the movies

Unwind from holiday hassle with the season's latest and greatest flicks

Movies and Boxing Day go together like turkey and stuffing.

While everyone is returning unwanted Christmas gifts or fighting bargain hunters at the mall it's the perfect time to relax and catch up on flicks you missed in the hectic ramp-up to the holidays.

The multiplexes are jammed with new movies at this time of year. Go see Disney's first hand drawn fairy tale in twenty years, The Princess and the Frog, for the beautiful animation Stay for the great songs and first ever African-American princess.

Also kid friendly is Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel, which sees the three furry singing stars find some competition from The Chipettes, an all girl chipmunk group lead by (the voice of) Drew Barrymore.

If singing rodents aren't your thing how about an all singing, all dancing movie from the usually oh-so-serious Daniel Day Lewis?

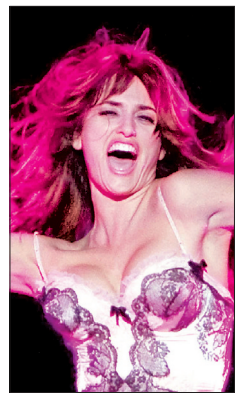
The Oscar winner stars in Nine, a musical about a film director juggling relationships with his wife, mistress, muse, agent and mother all while wearing cool Italian suits.

If twisty-turny relationships turn your crank but an overdose of Christmas carols has put you off music for the week, you may find some yuks in watching Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin fight over Meryl Streep in the comedy It's Complicated or the soon-to-be-divorced couple Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker enter the witness-protection program in Did You Hear About the Morgans?.

If you have time on your hands — or simply want a break from Christmas house guests — James Cameron's two-and-a-half-hour sci fi epic Avatar is the longest movie in current release.

Can't make the trip to the theatre? There's something on DVD or Blu-ray for everyone. For the kids there's Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince and G-Force.

Once the tots have gone to bed and grandma has had an extra sherry or two check out Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day, Inglourious Basterds or The Hangover for some adult entertainment.



Nine, starring Penelope Cruz, above, makes for some showy musical fun.

For the music lover in the house there's Taking Woodstock and the excellent guitar rock doc It Might Get Loud.

For the lovelorn, (500) Days of Summer should confirm that love can be fleeting, and for the romantics, Julie & Julia should verify that food always tastes better with someone you love.

Whether staying home or going out, there are plenty of options to help while away a lazy Boxing Day.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

Ch-ch-ch-chat all winter.
Amazing phones now under $100.

Palm® Pre™ smartphone
$99.95 with a $50 voice and data plan (min. 500MB) on a 2-yr. term[2] ($599.95 no term)

Samsung Galaxy™ smartphone with Google™
$99.95 with a $50 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term[2] ($449.95 no term)

Nokia 2730
$29.95 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($119.95 no term)

BlackBerry® Curve™ 8330 smartphone
$0 with a $40 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term[2] ($549.95 no term)

LG Rumour2™
$0 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($269.95 no term)

Samsung Vice™
$0 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($249.95 no term)

BONUS: For a limited time, enjoy $50 off accessories when you purchase any phone from Bell.[4]

Bell savings just got better

Available at the following Bell store:

Calgary
1221 Canyon Meadows Dr. SE
403 262-3340

Calgary
4307 130 Avenue SE
403 726-9977

Calgary
4801 Westwinds Dr.
403 568-1108

Edmonton
10603 107 Avenue
780 497-8887

Edmonton
17551 100 Ave.
780 498-0069

Edmonton
Abbottsfield Shoppers Mall
780 477-7795

Edmonton
Capilano Mall
780 469-3880

Edmonton
Northgate Centre
780 478-9815

Offer ends December 31, 2009. Available with compatible devices within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility (EVDO/HSPA/HSPA+) where technology permits. HSPA/HSPA+ not available everywhere. Other monthly fees, e.g., 911 (Quebec: $0.40, New Brunswick: $0.53, Nova Scotia: $0.43, P.E.I.: $0.50, not available in Newfoundland and Labrador), and one-time device activation ($35) apply. Paper bill service charge ($2/mo.) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. (1) With new activation on a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $50/mo. You must keep a min. $50/mo. post-paid voice and data plan for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. (2) With new activation on a post-paid voice plan. (3) With new activation on a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $40/mo. You must keep a min. $40/mo. post-paid voice and data plan for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. (4) With a new activation on a 3-yr. term on a post-paid voice plan. Rebate applies in-store before taxes on accessories. Palm and Pre are among the trademarks or registered trademarks owned by or licensed to Palm, Inc. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion® and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Nokia is a registered trademark of Nokia Corporation. Rumour2 is a trademark of LG Electronics Inc. Samsung Galaxy and Samsung Vice are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and its related entities. Google and Android are trademarks of Google, Inc.

A few favourite films

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Movies: Necessary stress reduction after particularly frantic Christmas responsibilities (and an imposing New Year's Day hangover) or other occasions when a time-killer is of the essence.

While you're out bargain hunting today, here are some new and old DVDs you should consider buying.

COMEDY

STEP BROTHERS — Even grown-ups need a no-brainer movie occasionally. Mission accomplished as two 40 year-olds act like rude toddlers. Dumb fun not suitable for, well, some adults, to be honest.

ACTION/DRAMA

THE DARK KNIGHT — Anti-hero central. Batman's not so cutesy, The Joker is a total badass. Don't argue.

HORROR

DEAD SNOW — Innovating on the greats (Evil Dead, Dead Alive), this indie flick turned global success finds teens fighting Nazi zombies in a Norwegian cabin. As hilarious as it is gory.

FAMILY

UP — The name Pixar (Cars, Monsters Inc.) is enough reason to watch this movie. It's also a heart-warming tale involving talking dogs, flying houses and life lessons capable of jerking tears from grumbly dads like this one.

TELEVISION

PUSHING DAISIES, SEASON ONE — A baker able to bring the dead back to life for one minute — longer if someone else dies in their place — resuscitates his childhood love. Insanity ensues and yes, it gets weirder. Comedy? Yup. Drama? Certainly. Indelibly interesting? Hot damn!

HEATH LEDGER
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER
WITH
JOHNNY DEPP
COLIN FARRELL
JUDE LAW
FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION
A FILM BY TERRY GILLIAM
THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS
NOW PLAYING
YOU COULD
WIN
A PAIR OF A RUN OF
ENGAGEMENT PASSES TO SEE
THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS
ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN! metronews.ca
metro
No purchase necessary. Enter daily for more chances to win. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 27, 2009 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.
E1 ENTERTAINMENT

During the holidays
For more celebrity news and entertainment gossip during the holidays, visit metronews.ca/entertainment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

2009: The year of celebrity deaths

Year in Review

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Headliners in life and death, the many stars who died this past year were a sure hit to the Hollywood community.

While some were shrouded in controversy, and others premature accidents, their deaths permeated international media, marking one last moment in the limelight.

Here, Metro looks back at the names-in-lights that flickered out in 2009.

MICHAEL JACKSON

When rumors began to circulate on June 25 that Michael Jackson went into cardiac arrest at his home, the whole world speculated whether the King of Pop was hanging up his crown for good.

It would only be hours before the 50-year-old pop star's death was confirmed, an event that graced the front pages of newspapers everywhere and brought the Internet to a crawl.

Autopsies concluded homicide prompted by a deadly drug combination caused Jackson's death, a final puzzling piece in the troubled artist's life.

FARRAH FAWCETT

Surely the year's darkest day for the celebrity world, June 25 also saw the death of actress and sex symbol Farrah Fawcett at 62.

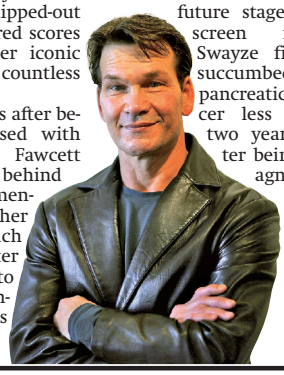
Despite coming to fame as one of the original Charlie's Angels and winning several Golden Globes and Emmy awards, her cultural influence extended well beyond acting. Fawcett's flipped-out hairstyle inspired scores of women; her iconic pinup poster, countless men.

Three years after being diagnosed with anal cancer, Fawcett died, leaving behind video documentation of her battle, which was later turned into the documentary Farrah's Story.

PATRICK SWAYZE

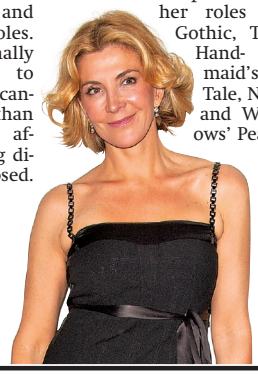
Cancer also claimed celebrated actor Patrick Swayze on Sept. 14, about one month after his 57th birthday. Swayze chassé his way into the spotlight with his role as a dance instructor in the 1987 film Dirty Dancing, which inspired a stage musical, reality TV show and video game.

His co-starring role in the 1990 film Ghost earned him respect as a serious actor, which influenced his future stage and screen roles. Swayze finally succumbed to pancreatic cancer less than two years after being diagnosed.



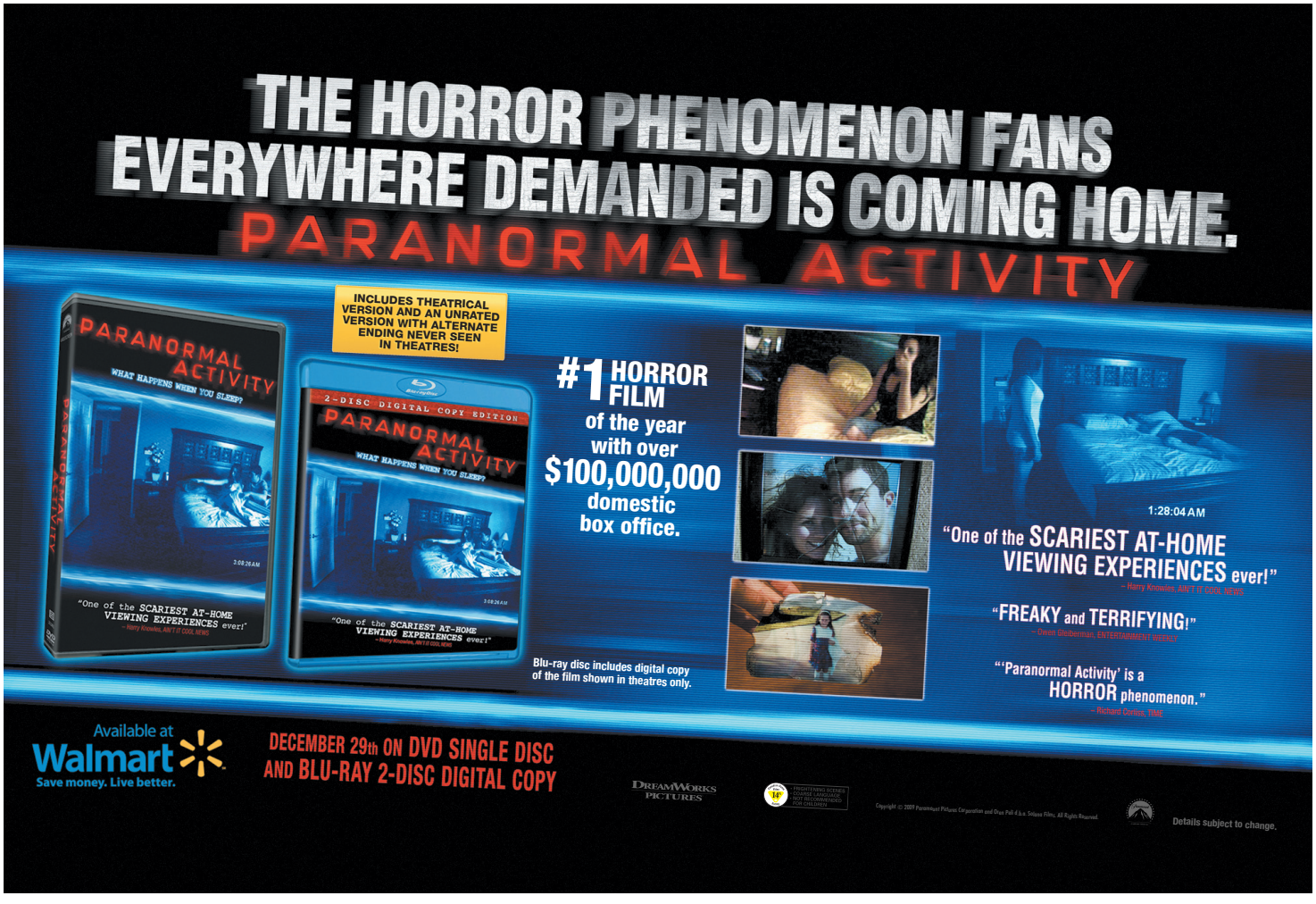
NATASHA RICHARDSON

After an accidental fall and resulting head injury during a skiing lesson at a Mont Tremblant, Que., resort, English actress Natasha Richardson died on March 14 at 45. Daughter of famed actress Vanessa Redgrave and British new wave auteur Tony Richardson, and wife of actor Liam Neeson, Richardson was a respected actress in her own right. A performer on stage and screen, she was praised for her roles in Gothic, The Handmaid's Tale, Nell and Widows' Peak.



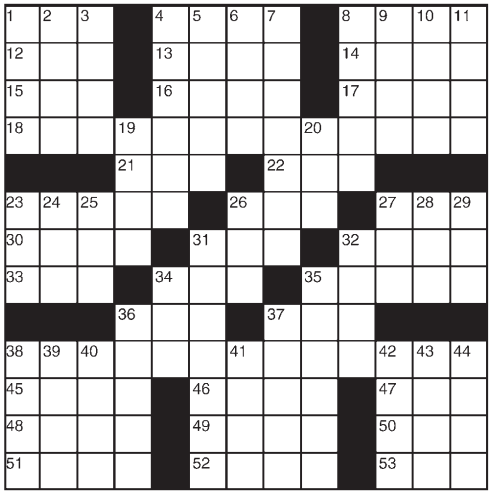
Notable 2009 celebrity deaths

- Mar. 22 – Jade Goody, 27, reality TV star (cancer)
- April 25 – Bea Arthur, 86, actress (cancer)
- June 3 – David Carradine, 72, actor (autoerotic asphyxiation)
- June 28 – Billy Mays, 50, TV pitchman (heart disease)
- July 17 — Walter Cronkite, 92, broadcaster (cerebral vascular disease)
- Aug. 6 – John Hughes, 59, filmmaker (heart failure)
- Aug. 28 – Adam (DJ AM) Goldstein, 36, disc jockey (accidental drug overdose)
- Sept. 16 – Mary Travers, 70, singer, Peter Paul & Mary (chemotherapy complications)
- Oct. 10 – Stephen Gately, 33, singer, Boyzone (natural causes)
- Dec. 20 — Brittany Murphy, 32, actress (cardiac arrest)



During the holiday
For more games, daily horoscopes and recipes during the holiday season, visit metronews.ca METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Chum
4 Body powder
8 Advantage
12 Actress Thurman
13 Needle case
14 Cozy corner
15 Hoover's org.
16 Word of warning
17 Sand formation
18 Very bright color
21 Prompt
22 Londoner's letter
23 Honey bunch?
26 Lustrous black
27 "See ya"
30 Indiana city
31 Answer to the Sphinx's riddle
32 Disposition
33 Copper head?
34 "— the ramparts ..."
35 Less
36 Lisa Simpson's instrument
37 Skedaddled
38 Youth group that went co-ed in 1975
45 Hodgepodge
46 Annual fashion award
47 A billion years
48 Crazy
49 Largest of the seven
50 Past
51 Option from Howie Mandel
52 — -do-well
53 Morning moisture

DOWN

1 Compact disc?
2 Both (Prefix)
3 Den
4 Liturgical hymn
5 Expiate
6 Breather?
7 Kane, e.g.
8 Over and done with
9 Sullen
10 Vanished
11 Supplemented, with "out"
19 Beige
20 Trawler gear
23 Resort
24 Symbol of intrigue
25 "All the Things You —"
26 Discordance
27 "— voyage!"
28 Thee
29 Mag. staffers
31 Popular foreign cuisine
32 Revealing skirt
34 Lummox
35 Hungarian
36 Reel
37 Tend a stubborn ribbon
38 Freezing
39 Lotion additive
40 Isinglass, e.g.
41 Got up
42 Peruse
43 Theater box
44 Winter forecast

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

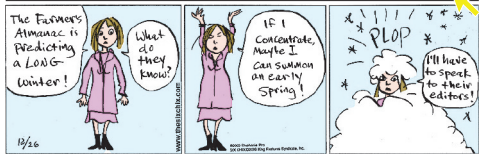
					1		7	
6	1				5	2		
	9		2			4		
	2			4	3		5	
8								6
	7		6	5			2	
		7			9		8	
		2	1				9	3
	4		8					

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

9	1	7	6	4	8	2	5	3
4	6	5	2	3	7	9	1	8
8	3	2	1	5	9	4	6	7
1	7	4	9	8	6	5	3	2
5	8	3	4	2	1	7	9	6
6	2	9	5	7	3	8	4	1
3	5	8	7	1	4	6	2	9
7	4	6	3	9	2	1	8	5
2	9	1	8	6	5	3	7	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Fruity Yogurt with Chocolate Chip and Nut Crunch

INGREDIENTS:
4 chocolate chip shortbread cookies
1/2 cup (125 mL) toasted hazelnuts, chopped
2 tbsp (25 mL) clear honey
2 small bananas, sliced
4 ready-to-eat dried apricots, chopped
2 1/2 cups (600 mL) plain yogurt

METHOD:
1. Put shortbread biscuits in plastic bag and crush coarsely using rolling pin. Tip into bowl and mix with toasted hazelnuts and honey.
2. Mix bananas and apricots into yogurt and divide among four bowls. Top with biscuit, nut and honey mixture. Serve at once.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If someone tries to lay the blame for some kind of failure at your door you must let them know that you reject the accusation that it is all your fault.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Something you have believed in since you were young will be called into question over the next few days and you may be tempted to abandon it.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
As Mercury, your ruler, turns retrograde this weekend, if you overlook an error, deliberate or otherwise, it could be costly.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If there is something important you need to say to a loved one, say it immediately. It won't be so easy to say it tomorrow.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Hide your feelings about the people you are working with and get on with a job that can only be completed successfully if you pull together.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
As Mercury, your ruler, turns retrograde today you won't be popular if you cannot deliver. Don't let your enthusiasm carry you away.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Make it your aim to cheer up someone who is feeling a bit depressed this weekend. Remind them that living is supposed to be fun.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Get up, get out and start doing the things that will take you from where you are now to where you want to be in the not too distant future.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You need to make up your mind about an offer and you need to do so quickly. If you put it off any longer the offer may be withdrawn.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Mercury turns retrograde in your sign this weekend, so if there is something you need to say then say it now while the words still come easy to you.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
It may appear to others as if you never have self-doubts but you suffer from indecision as much as anyone and that will be more evident than usual.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Your ideas and opinions are about to undergo a radical change. What you believe now will not be what you believe early in 2010.

This day in history

1776: American Revolutionary War: The British are defeated in the Battle of Trenton.
1862: The largest mass-hanging in U.S. history took place in Mankato, Minnesota, 38 Native Americans die.
1919: Babe Ruth of the Boston Red Sox is sold to the New York Yankees by owner Harry Frazee.
1941: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a bill establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day in the United States.
1986: World Population reaches 5 billion according to www.ibiblio.org world population tracker.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK
Visit metronews.ca to watch
metrotube of the day

Appy New Year!
Available on the App Store

NISSAN

NISSAN HOLIDAY KICK OFF

GET IN A NEW NISSAN, DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS*,

AND YOU COULD WIN A TRIP TO SUPER BOWL XLIV AND 2010 PRO BOWL IN SOUTH FLORIDA.**

It could be the Best Part Of Your Day.

3.5 SR MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/altima

2010 REDESIGNED ALTIMA SEDAN 2.5 S

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$26,498†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$319†** PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **2.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$3,550 DOWN PAYMENT
$18,848 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

"HIGHEST RANKED MIDSIZE CAR IN INITIAL QUALITY IN THE U.S."
- J.D. POWER AND ASSOCIATES®

Nissan Intelligent Key® with Push Button Ignition • Standard ABS, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), and Traction Control System (TCS) • Power windows and door locks

City: 8.7L/100km (32 MPG)
Highway: 6.0L/100km (47 MPG)▲▲

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

1.8 SL MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/versahatch

2010 VERSA HATCH 1.8 S

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$15,523†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$203†** PER MONTH PER 60 MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **2.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$12,173 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

$0 DOWN PAYMENT

Highest horsepower in its class (122 HP)[2] • Most rear leg room in its class (966 mm)[3] • Nissan Advanced Airbag System with 6 airbags • Winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award[4]

City: 7.9L/100km (36 MPG)
Highway: 6.3L/100km (45 MPG)▲▲

2010 REDESIGNED SENTRA 2.0

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$16,523†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$199†** PER MONTH FOR 60 MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **4.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$1,950 DOWN PAYMENT
$13,905 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

★★★★★ 5-STAR RATING FOR FRONT-IMPACT CRASH SAFETY[5]

Standard ABS and Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD) • Power door locks • Nissan Advanced Airbag System with 6 airbags

City: 8.4L/100km (34 MPG)
Highway: 6.4L/100km (44 MPG)▲▲

2.0 SL MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/sentra

VISIT YOUR LOCAL NISSAN RETAILER TODAY OR NISSAN.CA FOR DETAILS.

UP TO **$1000** REBATE▪ | NISSAN GRAD PROGRAM

NISSAN. PROUD SPONSOR OF THE NFL.

*90 days no payments program applies only to purchase finance offers on new 2009 and 2010 Nissan models (except 2009/2010 Altima Hybrid, GT-R, 350Z Roadster and Coupe and 370Z™ Roadster and Coupe) purchased and delivered before January 4th, 2010. Offers available only through Nissan Canada Finance on approved credit. Offer only available on special low rate contracts, and does not apply to Nissan Canada Finance standard rate programs. May not be combined with cash purchase offer. Monthly payments deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charge (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After the 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal and interest (if any) monthly from the 90th day over the term of the contract. Offer available on terms up to 72 months. **No purchase necessary. For full rules and how to enter, visit www.nissan.ca/holidaykickoff. Contest closes January 10, 2010. Three (3) Grand Prizes available to be won, each consisting of a trip for two (2) people to 2010 Pro Bowl and Super Bowl XLIV in South Florida. Approximate retail value of each Grand Prize is $10,000.00 (CDN). Random draw will be held on January 12, 2010 in Mississauga, ON. Must be a resident of Canada (excluding Québec), over age of majority. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Correct answer to mathematical skill testing question required. Limit of one (1) entry per person/household. (c) 2009 NFL Ventures LP. Team names/logos are trademarks of the teams indicated. All other NFL-related trademarks are trademarks of the National Football League. ‡0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on 2010 Altima Sedan (excluding Hybrid), Sentra and Versa Hatch models. Finance Example for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00): $26,498 Selling Price including ($1,400) freight and PDE, financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $597.17 per month with $5,000 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $26,498. Up to $84 PPSA, license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between December 1st, 2009 and January 4th, 2010. †Lease Examples: $26,498/$15,523/$16,523 Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00)/2010 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG50 AA00)/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00) at 2.9%/2.9%/4.9% lease rate for a 48/60/60 month term. Monthly payment is $319/$203/$199 including ($1,400)/($1,325)/($1,325) freight and PDE, with $3,550/$0/$1,950 down payment, and $0/$0/$0 security deposit. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $18,848/$12,173/$13,905. Lease and finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between December 1st, 2009 and January 4th, 2010. ††Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00), CVT transmission/2010 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG50 AA00), manual transmission/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00), manual transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,325)/($1,325) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. ▲Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions - use for comparison only. ▲▲Models shown $33,298 Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 3.5 SR (T4SG10 AA00), CVT transmission/$18,723 Selling Price for a new 2010 Versa Hatch 1.8 SL (B5RG50 AA00), manual transmission/$24,423 Selling Price for a new 2010 Sentra 2.0 SL (C4TG10 AA00), CVT transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailer may sell for less. [1]The Nissan Altima received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. [2]WardsAuto.com's Lower Small segment, January 2009. [3]WardsAuto.com's Lower Small segment, January 2009. 2010 Versa vs. 2009 competitors. [4]The 2010 Versa Hatch is winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. [5]Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. model tested. Please see www.safercar.gov for up to date information. ▪For a limited time receive up to $1,000 Grad discount available on select models when leasing or financing a new 2009 or 2010 Nissan. See retailer for complete Grad program details.